

Multi-Dimensional design methodologies for sensitive territories: Rashid and the Nile Delta (Egypt)

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Abstract

The research is tackling the urban challenges in the area of Rashid (Delta of the Nile) area and proposes a multi scalar and interdisciplinary methodological approach that develops simultaneously the territorial, the urban and the design scale; while the interrelations between the physical structure, the cultural conditions and the socio-economic processes are subsequently explored.

Strategic urban development for Rashid's transformation processes have been proposed as a part of 7th semester architecture design studio in the German University in Cairo, and this paper aims to illustrate a precise design methodology through showing the processes and results of the studio.

Through a community based approach, the proposals reach complex adaptive Urban Design strategies and systems which integrate environmental concerns, social demands, and natural resources preservation.

The aim of reviving Rashid as a Mediterranean city introduces us to three core and essential conditions to be preserved in the the contemporary reconfiguration of sensitive territories:

- _The uniqueness of places, related to it's particular geographic and landscape conditions, that often related to its historic and cultural heritage.
- _The specificity contexts, with it's physical configuration intimately linked to the cultural and socioeconomic treats and traditions.
- _The fragility of landscape conditions and the organisation of societies and communities.

Key words

Multisclarity; Urban complexity; Context-specificity; Community-based approach; Nile Delta